

Overview of 1915 (c) Waiver Updates Regarding Employment Supports

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Reason for Updates to Waiver Guidance

- Underscores CMS's commitment to the importance of work for waiver participants
- Supports States' efforts to increase employment opportunities and meaningful community integration for waiver participants.
- Provides further clarification of CMS guidance regarding several core service definitions and adds several new core service definitions.



Key Updates to CMS Waiver Guidance:

- Provides a strong preamble that highlights the importance of competitive work and CMS's goal to promote more integrated employment options in waivers
- Emphasizes the critical role of person centered planning in achieving employment outcomes



Key Updates to CMS Waiver Guidance: continued

- Articulates best practices and highlights self direction options for employment support
- Explains that Ticket to Work Outcome and Milestone payments are not in conflict with payment for Medicaid services rendered



Key Updates to CMS Waiver Guidance: continued

- Clarifies that pre-vocational services are not an end point, but a time limited (but no specific limit given) activity to help someone obtain competitive employment
- Describes that volunteer work and other work type activities that are not paid, integrated community employment are appropriately classified as pre-vocational, not supported employment services



Key Updates to CMS Waiver Guidance: continued

- Splits supported employment into two core service definitions- individual and small group
- Adds a new core service definition for career planning, that is currently used by several States



Sharing Updates

- CMS is not changing policy, but rather clarifying and strengthening guidance around permissible waiver options to promote employment for people with disabilities and individuals who are elderly.
- We will be issuing an Informational Bulletin with these updates in the near future
- These changes will also be included in version 3.6 of the Waiver Technical Guide to be released at a later date

